

ENTERPRISE, EDUCATION AND SKILLS**1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council**

- 1.1 There will have been 4 Cabinet meetings (14 December 2015, 18 January 2016, 22 February 2016 and 14 March 2016) since the last Executive Report to County Council. Items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio are set out below:-

14 December 2015

- 1.2 The following items were considered by Cabinet:

Proposal to close the Primary Support Base (PSB) at Highwood Primary School, Bushey

Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory notice to close the Primary Support Base at Highwood Primary School, Bushey, on 31 March 2016.

Proposal to remove 6th form provision from Cheshunt School, Cheshunt

Cabinet approved the proposal to remove sixth form provision at Cheshunt School, College Road, Cheshunt by September 2017, by means of an alteration of the upper age limit of the school through a change of age range from 11 to 18 years to 11 to 16 years.

Proposal to consult on the removal of Passenger assistants from small vehicles transporting entitled children to mainstream Primary Schools

Cabinet agreed that public consultation be undertaken in January 2016 to remove passenger assistants from all small vehicles transporting mainstream primary aged pupils with phased implementation for infant children currently travelling.

Bishop Stortford North – Primary School Strategy and proposed acquisition of land at Farnham Road Bishop Stortford

Cabinet authorised acquisition of the land at Farnham Road, Bishop's Stortford, on the basis that planning permission has first been granted for the development of a 3FE primary school on that land.

18 January 2016

- 1.3 There were no items of business that were specifically attributed to this portfolio. As part of the decision regarding the Integrated Plan 2016 / 17, Cabinet approved the release of schools budget data/information to the Department for Education (DfE), to meet its deadline of 21 January 2016, and noted that the Chief Finance Officer may make any consequential amendments arising from current uncertainties.

22 February 2016

1.4 The following items were considered by Cabinet:-

School Admission Arrangements 2016 / 17

Cabinet recommended to County Council that Council agrees existing “Relevant Areas” should be retained. In addition it recommended to Council that existing admission arrangements and schemes of coordination (including Published Admission Numbers (PANs)) are retained for all schools except the following schools where the increases set out below are required to meet local demand:

- William Ransom, Hitchin - increase from 38 to 60
- Tannery Drift, Royston - increase from 45 to 60
- Roman Way, Royston - increase from 45 to 60
- Forres, Hoddesdon - increase from 45 to 60
- Prae Wood, St Albans - increase from 30 to 60
- Giles Junior, Stevenage - increase from 60 to 90
- Almond Hill Junior, Stevenage - increase from 60 to 90.

Council agreed these proposals at its meeting on 23 February 2016.

Additional School places

Cabinet approved the proposed permanent school expansion of Leavesden Green Primary School, Watford, and endorsed the Director of Children’s Services’ intention to consult on it.

In addition it approved £2.0m additional funds for temporary expansions for September 2016, where required and noted the areas for secondary expansion requirements for 2017 and 2018;

Cabinet also approved a contribution of £0.6m for 0.5 forms of entry places at The Herts & Essex High School for Girls from 2017 onwards, conditional upon receipt by the School of sufficient central Government grant for its proposed project and approved the application of S106 funds (as identified in Appendix A to the report for that item of business), subject to the completion of relevant school expansion and town planning statutory processes.

It also agreed in principle to supporting The Broxbourne School in providing enhanced Sixth form capacity through a repayable grant of c£5m for 4 years, conditional on a proposal being developed which meets two criteria – no loss of income and no material risk to the Council.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 22 February 2016

2.1 Nothing to report.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- 3.1 Cabinet will consider at its meeting on 14 March 2016 the outcome of the consultation to remove passenger assistants from small vehicles transporting infant children to mainstream primary schools. Enterprise, Education and Skills Panel have agreed to recommend this proposition to Cabinet.

4. Key Partnerships

4.1 Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

- 4.1.1 The Hertfordshire LEP has appointed three new board Members, Mark Bretton, a Managing Director at global professional services company Accenture, is to join as a Business Representative and act as Chair Designate until the current Chair John Gourd steps down in June. Andrew Stroomer, Stevenage Site Director, Airbus Defence and Space, will succeed Martino Picardo as a Business Representative. Tina Barnard, Chief Executive of Watford Community Housing Trust, will fill the Commercial Not-For-Profit Representative vacancy.

- 4.1.2 As part of the Autumn statement, the LEP's bid for an Enviro-Tech Enterprise Zone supported by St Albans City and District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and Rothamsted Research was one of 18 new Enterprise Zones approved.

- 4.1.3 Following the Heseltine Review that put funds under the direct control of business-led LEPs, the government affirmed its commitment to the £12bn Local Growth Fund between 2015-16 and 2020-21. The indicative Local Growth Fund allocations that were made through Growth Deals were confirmed. £5bn remains to be allocated for future deals. LEPs will continue to receive core funding from government on the basis of matched local funding.

- 4.1.4 There have been two meetings of the LEP Board since my last report:

- In November the Board met in Broxbourne and received a presentation from the Borough Council on their economic development ambitions for the area.
- In January the Board met in Watford, toured the Watford Health Campus and received presentations from the Borough Council and its partners on its Health Campus and Business Park projects. The Board also received a presentation on the Skillsmasters initiative from West Herts College.

- 4.1.5 The minutes of the LEP Board meetings are available on the LEP website and the LEP Newsletter is now circulated to all County Councillors.

www.hertfordshirelep.com

4.2 London Stanstead Cambridge Consortium (LSCC)

- 4.2.1 The LSCC's Growth Commission has held a series of events to evaluate the economic potential of the corridor, and to develop a business case for future investment in the corridor. The Commission is due to report later in the year.

www.lsccgrowthcommisson.org.uk

4.2.2 The LSCC have also launched their prospectus to promote the case for investment in the West Anglia Mainline as part of their work to develop a robust business case for four lane tracking and Crossrail 2 in the corridor

4.3 **Skills Strategy**

4.3.1 The Enterprise, Education and Skills Panel received an update on the Hertfordshire Skills Strategy in November. Good progress is being made on the action plan and a further Skills Summit is planned for Autumn 2016.
www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/s/skillstrat.pdf

4.3.2 The LEP, in partnership with Youth Connexions, is now delivering The Careers & Enterprise Company as part of a nationwide network. Its ambition is to inspire and prepare young people for the fast changing world of work and help shape the future workforce to meet local business needs. Senior leadership volunteers from the local business community are being sought to act as Enterprise Advisers in schools/colleges. This is an important element of the Hertfordshire Skills Strategy.

4.4 **Tourism**

4.4.1 The new Destination management service for Hertfordshire, Visit Hertfordshire, is now up and running, with a new Partnership Board established, and a dedicated manager in place. The first campaign of the new service was the Big Weekend (12 and 13 March) when over 40 attractions in Hertfordshire opened their doors to the public, to coincide with Visit England Tourism Week.

4.4.2 My Deputy Morris Bright is the Council's representative on the Tourism Partnership board.

5. **Other comments**

5.1 **School Visits**

I have visited a number of schools since the last Full Council Meeting. These include:

- The Reach Free School at their temporary site in Wolsey Business Park, Rickmansworth ahead of their proposed move to Mill End near M25 J17.
- The Hemel Hempstead School to appreciate their redevelopment and growth aspirations.
- The Broxbourne School regarding their plans to release land for residential development and the complete rebuild of the school.
- Sandringham School St Albans for the opening of a new Maths, Science and Computing Building. This was a £3m investment by the County Council that has enabled the school to expand its permanent capacity by 1 Form of Entry.

- The Bishop's Stortford High School to learn of their aspiration to relocate to a site that is expected to be released from the Green Belt by East Herts District Council's Local Plan.
- Knights Templar in Baldock with Michael Muir to reflect on the impact of the emerging proposals for a significant urban extension of the town.
- Ludwick Nursery in Welwyn Garden City to learn of their early years teaching school status and the day care and Children's Centre services delivered from the site.
- The opening at Holwell Primary School in Welwyn Garden City of a new two storey block to accommodate a second form of entry – a £2.1m investment by the County Council.
- St Clement Danes in Chorleywood to discuss the progress of the new sponsored secondary Free School at Croxley Green.
- The Samuel Ryder Academy in St Albans to appreciate its improvement strategies and transformation to "All Through" provision.

5.2 Schools Performance

Schools' Performance – the 2014/15 school year primary and secondary school performance tables are available on the Department for Education website. Results can be ordered and ranked by phase and measure.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/index.html>

65.1% of students achieved 5 or more GCSEs A*-C grade including English and mathematics. This is above the national figure of 57.3% and puts Hertfordshire in the top fifth of all local authorities in the country.

Detailed analysis of Hertfordshire's strong Standards and Quality performance against national results and statistical neighbours was considered at Panel on 4 February 2016. The report highlights the imperative to improve the attainment of disadvantaged pupils – those in receipt of Free School Meals, with Special Educational Needs and Children Looked After.

5.3 Member Briefings

Workshop / briefings have been provided for Members on (1) Meeting the rising demand for school places and (2) The work of Herts for Learning (HfL) and their work to improve standards in education. Both events were well attended and were well received by the respective audiences.

6. Cabinet Panels

Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel has met on 7 December 2015, 4 February 2016 and 1 March 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[7 December 2016](#)

[4 February 2016](#)

[1 March 2016](#)

David Williams
Executive Member for Enterprise, Education and Skills
March 2016